

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-20, and 23-51 are pending. Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated May 4, 2006 in which the Examiner stated that the response filed on February 13, 2006 was not fully responsive. The Examiner has asserted that no arguments were presented pointing out the specific distinctions between claim 43, which was added in the response filed on February 13, 2006, and the applied references U.S. Patent No. 5,636,799 to Trusty et al. ("Trusty"), U.S. Patent No. 5,628,463 to Nakamura ("Nakamura"), U.S. Patent No. 6,536,683 to Filicicchia et al. ("Filicicchia"), or Filicicchia in view of Trusty.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicant points-out the specific distinctions between the language of claim 43 and Trusty, Nakamura, and Filicicchia. Claim 43 recites "[a] spray applicator, comprising: a gun configured to receive a liquid and atomize the liquid; and a supply vessel coupled to the gun that supplies the liquid to the gun, the supply vessel retaining a volume of the liquid and including a level sensor responsive to the volume retained by the supply vessel, the level sensor including a sensor element configured to detect a liquid volume solely by sensing a resistance property of the liquid." The cited references do not disclose or fairly suggest the sensor element of the level sensor being configured to detect a liquid volume within the supply vessel solely by sensing a resistance property of the liquid in the supply vessel in combination with the other limitations.

The cited references, and particularly Filicicchia and Trusty, do not disclose or fairly suggest "a sensor element configured to detect a liquid volume solely by sensing a resistance property of the liquid." Filicicchia is silent as to the particular sensor employed. In contrast, Trusty discloses using a capacitance sensor or a magnetic float sensor. Neither a capacitance sensor nor a magnetic float sensor senses the liquid solely based upon the resistance of the volume of liquid in the storage vessel. A capacitance sensor relies on more complicated alternating current or voltage based circuitry than a system that senses the volume of a liquid in a supply vessel solely based upon resistance of the liquid. Furthermore, while Nakamura discloses "a level sensor 11 that controls the flow rate controller in the pipe 4 so that the conductive liquid level maintains a level within a desired range," it does not disclose what type of sensor is used for the level sensor 11. (See, Nakamura, col. 5, lines 3-5; Figures 2A and 2B). Thus, Nakamura also does not disclose or fairly suggest "a sensor element configured to detect a liquid volume solely by sensing a resistance property of the liquid," as required by claim 43.

Accordingly, claim 43 is patentable over the cited references. Claims depending from claim 43 are also allowable due to depending from an allowable base claim and further in view of the additional limitations recited in the dependent claims.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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